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# Proposed Constitution for the Division on Women in Crime of the American Society of Criminology

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PROPOSED CONSTITUTION FOR THE DIVISION ON WOMEN AND CRIME OF  
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

I. Name: The name of the organization shall be the Division on Women and Crime.

II. Purpose and Objectives:

The Division on Women and Crime will be a constituent unit of The American Society of Criminology and will function in accordance with the bylaws and policies of that Society.

The purposes and objectives are:

- A. To bring together ASC members of both sexes interested in discussing issues related to women of all ages who are professionals, victims and/or offenders in the criminal justice system.
- B. To facilitate and encourage research and theory development about women of all ages as professionals, victims and/or offenders in the criminal justice system.
- C. To encourage appropriate and effective teaching techniques and practices and to stimulate the development of curricula for courses on women and crime.
- D. To serve as a resource network for and encourage interaction among academic, research, practitioner and policy-making sectors in order to further the understanding of problems faced by women of all ages who are professionals, victims and/or offenders in the criminal justice system and their means of resolution.
- E. To organize conference sessions related to issues on women and crime.

III. Membership:

Membership in this Division will be open to all American Society of Criminology members in good standing. Members in good standing who have paid Divisional dues will be considered eligible for voting at Divisional meetings, for election of Divisional officers and eligible to hold office.

IV. Offices:

A. The following offices will be a part of this Division:

1. Chairperson

- a. The Chairperson will provide executive direction for the Division and will preside over Division meetings.
- b. The Chairperson will serve as a liaison with the Annual American Society of Criminology Program Chairperson to ensure the inclusion of panels relating to issues on women and crime on the program.
- c. The Chairperson will be elected by Division members and will serve for two years. However, the Chairperson elected for the first time will serve for three years. This will ensure that all officers are not elected at the same time following the first election.

2. Vice-Chairperson

- a. The Vice-Chairperson will preside over Division meetings in the absence of the Chairperson and shall be empowered to conduct all necessary business of the Division if the office of Chairperson is vacant or if the Chairperson is disabled.
- b. The Vice-Chairperson will be responsible for the creation, publication and dissemination of the Division Newsletter.
- c. The Vice-Chairperson will be elected by Division members and will serve for two years.

3. Secretary/Treasurer

- a. The Secretary/Treasurer will keep the records and minutes of the Division.
- b. The Secretary/Treasurer will maintain contact with the Treasurer of The American Society of Criminology who will maintain a separate account in The American Society of Criminology Treasury for the Division. The Secretary/Treasurer will make sure the Division is informed of the Divisions balance, debts, credits, etc. and financial issues that may arise.
- c. The Secretary/Treasurer will record minutes of each meeting of the Division and will forward a copy to each of the other two officers and to the Executive Board.
- d. The Secretary/Treasurer will serve as the Chairperson of the Membership Committee.
- e. The Secretary/Treasurer will be elected by Division members and will serve for two years.

- B. The term of office for each incoming officer will begin with the close of the Annual Meeting, following his/her election.

C. Nominations and Elections

The President of The American Society of Criminology will appoint a Nominations Committee of two people who are members of the Division in good standing during the month of January in an election year. This Committee will receive names in nomination for each office to be vacant, until the end of April of that year.

Ballots will be mailed to all members of the Division in good standing and must be returned no later than September 30 of that year.

Candidates receiving the plurality of votes will be elected. In the event no person receives this plurality, a run-off election will be held before the Annual Meeting between the two candidates who received the most votes.

Ballots will be counted by members of The American Society of Criminology in Columbus, Ohio. The American Society of Criminology Administrator will notify the Chairperson of the results of the election. Results will be published in the Division Newsletter.

V. Committees:

- A. Program Committee: The Program Committee will consist of the Division Chairperson and two other members of the Division in good standing. The Division Chairperson will serve as liaison to the Program Committee of The American Society of Criminology.

- B. Membership Committee: The Membership Committee will consist of the Division Secretary/Treasurer as Chair and two other members of the Division in good standing. This Committee will solicit new members and update the membership list as needed.
- C. Newsletter Committee: The Newsletter Committee will consist of the Vice-Chairperson of the Division as chair and two other members of the Division in good standing. This Committee will obtain items for publications and compile the newsletter at least twice a year. The newsletter will include, at a minimum, minutes of the previous Annual Division meeting, summaries of committee reports, election results, call for nominations, information pertaining to the upcoming Annual Meeting.
- This Committee will also develop other information, such as a list of names and addresses of persons engaged in various types of research on women and crime, and will disseminate this material in response to requests from the field.
- D. The membership of these committees will be determined by the Executive Board and announced at the Annual Meeting of the Division. Committee members will serve for one year and may be reappointed.

#### VI. Executive Board:

There will be an Executive Board comprised of the Division's current officers, past Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and three members of the Division in good standing nominated and elected by members of the Division at the Annual Meeting. A plurality of votes of those present will determine the winners. This Board will form policies for the Division, provide advice and decide the budget for the Division, and select committee members by majority vote.

#### VII. Dues:

Annual Division dues will be five dollars (\$5.00) and will be due at the time annual dues to The American Society of Criminology are paid.

#### VIII. Functions of the Division:

- A. The Division will arrange for sessions on women and crime at the Annual Meeting of The American Society of Criminology.
- B. The Division will publish a newsletter at least twice a year.
- C. The Division will hold its annual meeting at the time of the Annual Meeting of The American Society of Criminology. This meeting will include brief reports by each committee and discussion of issues raised by the membership.

Robert's Rules of Order will be followed in conducting meetings.

In conducting business, a quorum will consist of one-fifth of the Division's members in good standing. In voting, decisions will be on the basis of a simple majority.

IX. Amending the Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Division, but the written support of a fifth of the Divisional membership in good standing is required for a further action.
2. A qualified proposal for amendment, determined qualified by the Advisory Board, will be approved when it receives a two-thirds vote by mail ballot submitted to members in good standing. The Nominations Committee will manage the distribution and counting of ballots. The results will be reported to the Chair of the Division and the Advisory Board.
3. Approved amendments shall take effect two months after the next Annual Meeting of The American Society of Criminology.

9/7/82